useful mutant varieties in crop plants, of which the yellow mustard mutant TM-4 was found very successful in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and in eastern parts of the country.

(b) The mutant varieties developed by BARC using radiation technique include nine varieties in pulses, eight in groundnut, two in mustard and one each in rice and jute. These varieties have been recommended for cultivation in different regions of the country by the Central Varietal Release Committee.

Indo-Russian Agreement on Nuclear Power Reactors

3265. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have signed an agreement under which Russia will sell two nuclear power reactors to be set up in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the broad terms of the agreement; and

(c) the specific benefits flowing to the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) India and Russia have signed a supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 on 21.6.98 for implementation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu. As per the IGA of 1988, the earstwhile USSR was to supply 2 Units of 1000 MWe each Light Water Rectors on a turnkey basis. Now the project is to be taken up on the basis of technical co-operation between India and the Russian Federation. The Russian Government will provide the entire plant design and be responsible for supply of major equipment, implementation of the project, commissioning and guarantee of operational performance. The IGA read with the supplement also provides for financial assistance and its repayment over a period of time.

(c) While India would benefit by getting two Light Water Reactors of 1000 MWe each partly financed by a soft loan in US dollars, the Russians would find a market in this field.

Regulation of Nuclear Energy Activities

3266. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulates the safety of nuclear energy activities in the country;

(b) whether the Board regulates the activities of civilian nuclear installations only; and

(c) the agency if any, to regulate the safety of defence nuclear installations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board carries out regulatory and safety functions envisaged under the Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Section 16 deals with the control of radioactive substances, Section 17 is related to special provisions to safety and Section 23 pertains to the administration of Factories Act 1948.

The powers and functions of AERB are derived from the order constituting AERB (S.O. 4772, Gazette of India Part II SEC 3 (i) dated December 31, 1983). AERB carries out the regulation of the activities referred to in S.O. 4772, which covers the regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Atomic Energy Act.